

We claim:

1. An antimicrobial surface preparation, comprising a dispersion of wax and particles of silver in an antimicrobially effective amount.
2. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.
3. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of silver comprise at least about 0.005 % by weight.
4. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.3 % by weight.
5. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.25 % by weight.
6. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of silver.
7. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

8. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

9. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of silver.

10. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of silver comprise at least about 0.005 % by weight.

11. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.3 % by weight.

12. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.25 % by weight.

13. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of silver.

14. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

15. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

16. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of silver.

17. An antimicrobial surface preparation, comprising a dispersion of wax and particles of silver wherein said particles of silver are available to be ionized in an amount sufficient to kill bacteria.

18. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said bacteria are killed at a rate of about 99 % within about 24 hours after said dispersion of wax and particles of silver has been applied.

19. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.

20. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of silver comprise at least about 0.005 % by weight.

21. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.3 % by weight.

22. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.25 % by weight.

23. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of silver.

24. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

25. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

26. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of silver.

27. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of silver comprise at least about 0.005 % by weight.

28. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.3 % by weight.

29. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.25 % by weight.

30. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of silver.

31. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

32. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

33. The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of silver.

34. A surface preparation, comprising a dispersion of wax and silver wherein said particles of silver comprise at least about 0.005% by weight.

35. The surface preparation of claim 34 wherein said particles of silver further comprise not more than about 0.3 % by weight.

36. The surface preparation of claim 34 wherein said particles of silver further comprise not more than about 0.25 % by weight.

37. The surface preparation of claim 34 wherein said particles of silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.

38. A surface preparation, comprising a dispersion of wax and particles of silver wherein said particles of silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.

39. A method for producing a surface preparation comprising:  
providing a supply of wax;  
providing a supply of particles of silver;  
combining said supply of wax with said supply of particles of silver to form a dispersion comprising said wax and said particles of silver.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.

41. The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of silver comprise at least about 0.005% by weight.

42. The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005% by weight and about 0.3% by weight.

43. The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of silver comprise between about 0.005% by weight and about 0.25% by weight.

44. The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of silver.

45. The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

46. The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 3.0 microns between said particles of silver.

47. The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of silver.

48. The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of silver are dispersed in said dispersion in an antimicrobially effective amount.

49. A method for producing an antimicrobial surface preparation comprising:

providing a supply of Armstrong Excelon floor wax;

providing a supply of particles of silver wherein the size of each said particle of silver is about 30 nanometers on average;

combining said supply of Armstrong Excelon floor wax and said supply of particles of silver to form a dispersion comprising said wax and said particles of silver wherein said particles of silver comprise about 0.005% by weight and wherein said dispersion kills bacteria at a rate of about 99% within about 24 hours of its application.